

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021 – 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME – *Mayor Webb*

B. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

Mike Owens
James Anderson
Amanda Pillion
Donna Quetsch, Vice Mayor
Derek Webb, Mayor

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. PRAYER – Pastor Steven Bednar

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 9:36 – 10:02)

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the agenda as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO 10:03 – 15:51)

- Wayne Craig
- Richard Morgan

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 15:52 – 16:31)

- May 3, 2021 minutes
- May 20, 2021 mid-month meeting

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Owens, approved the May 3, 2021 and the May 20, 2021 mid-month minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
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Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

H. PROCLAMATIONS (VIDEO 16:33 – 19:18)

Mayor Webb read into record Proclamation on the occasion to recognize June 6 – 12, 2021 at National Garden Week. Mayor Webb and Council presented members of the Abingdon Garden Club with a framed Proclamation.

I. PUBLIC HEARING - Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided and comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person.

1. **Public Hearing** – Sale of real property, namely Hassinger House, also known as Abingdon Convention and Visitors Bureau, 335 Cummings Street, Parcel Number 020-11-1 – ***James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 19:24 – 21:40)***

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open for comment. Wayne Craig addressed the Council. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Webb closed the public hearing.

2. **Public Hearing** - Solicit public input for local community development in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) proposal to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for General Community Support in the COVID-19 Environment Program. The General Community Support in the COVID-19 Environment Program will consist of a partnership between the Town, locally owned dine-in restaurants to provide ready-to-go meals to Faith In Action for families in need. – ***Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development and Tourism/Assistant Town Manager (VIDEO 21:41 – 23:33)***

Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development and Tourism/Assistant Town Manager addressed the Council to advise the continuation of the grant from January 2020 with the DHCD offering an additional \$200,000. Mrs. Triplett stated that she has requested the pre-COVID regulations and include the locally owned sit-down, full-service restaurants who have opened during the pandemic.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open for comment. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Webb closed the public hearing.

J. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution of the Council supporting local community development in relation to Community Development Block Grant proposal requesting additional funding to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for General Community Support in the COVID-19 Environment Program. – ***Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development and Tourism/Assistant Town Manager (VIDEO 23:36 – 24:46)***

Cameron Bell, Counsel advised Council that communications with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development regarding language for the Resolution and requested that the matter be tabled and revisited at the next meeting.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, tabled matter to a later date.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

2. Resolution of the Council to establish fees and charges for services – ***James Morani, Town Manager*** (VIDEO 24:47 – 26:55)

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that this Resolution includes sewer fee adjustment of four percent effective July 1, as well as trash and all other fees being set by the Town Manager as has been the practice. Mr. Morani stated that the Ordinance included the tax rates as required by statute. Mayor Webb clarified that the sewer and trash fees were recommended by the Town's financial advisors last year but adopting this year as a result of the pandemic.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, adopted Resolution as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

3. Resolution of the Council supporting the expansion of passenger rail service – ***James Morani, Town Manager*** (VIDEO 26:55 – 28:18)

Town Manager James Morani stated that this Resolution is the Town's support for the expansion of passenger rail service in Southwest Virginia. Mr. Morani stated that upon passenger this will be forwarded to our legislatures for presentation to the Governor.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, adopted Resolution as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

1. An Ordinance of the Council to transition Council elections from May to November. – ***Cameron Bell, Town Counsel (VIDEO 28:20 – 29:47)***

Cameron Bell conveyed that legislature passed this session ordering elections to be transitioned from May to November by statute 15.2-1400, which requires Council to adopt an Ordinance. Mr. Bell stated that the Ordinance would be effective July 1, but it will affect every election conducted after January 1, 2022.

Mayor Webb questioned whether this matter should be rejected. Hearing no comment, matter will move to a second reading.

2. An Ordinance to amend Chapter 82 of the Town of Abingdon Code pertaining to ride-share – ***James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 29:48 – 30:46)***

Town Manager James Morani stated that this Ordinance would amend the Town Code to redefine the definition of “taxicab” to exclude ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft.

Mayor Webb questioned whether this matter should be rejected. Hearing no comment, matter will move to a second reading.

L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance of the Council for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia proposing a budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to make appropriation for the current expenses of the Town and to fix a tax rate upon real and personal property, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022. – ***Steve Trotman, Director of Finance (VIDEO 30:49 – 33:58)***

Director of Finance Steve Trotman presented a revised budget ordinance to Council as a result on increase revenues. Mr. Trotman stated that he felt confident that the trend would continue and amended the budget to include a two-percent Cost of Living Adjustment as this was deferred from the current budget due to the pandemic.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, approved the presented Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget, which included a 2% cost of living increase for full-time employees, including Council appointees.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye

Mayor Webb

Aye

M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

N. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for Proposals (RFP) by the Town of Abingdon for sale of 335 Cummings Street, Parcel No. 020-11-1 – ***James Morani, Town Manager*** (VIDEO 34:02 – 38:57)

Town Manager James Morani presented the Request for Proposal for authorization to publish. Mayor Webb stated that this was discussed at the last meeting and changes were made based on the requests of citizens regarding the covenants. Cameron Bell, Counsel, discussed the deed restrictions included in the proposed RFP. Discussion ensued.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Request for Proposals as it is presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

O. OLD BUSINESS

P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER (VIDEO 38:48 – 41:40)

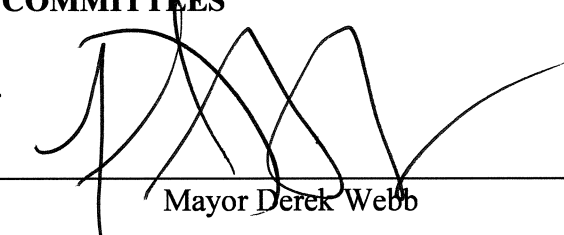
Town Manager James Morani updated Council with regard to sales, lodging and meals tax collections with a comparison of the April/May 2019 revenue to April/May 2021, and feels very cautiously optimistic.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 41:42 – 46:52)

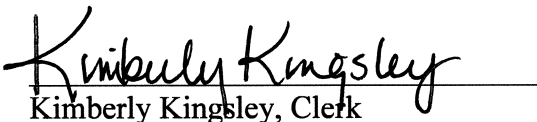
Mrs. Pillion addressed matters and events regarding interactions between Town Council, Manager, and members of the Veterans Memorial Foundation Board.

R. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



Mayor Derek Webb



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk